

Russia declares treaty moratorium

by UPI

MOSCOW - Russia on Monday declared a moratorium on the Conventional Armed Forces in Europe treaty with the hope other countries would ratify the arms-reduction accord.

"In May, we announced a moratorium on the implementation of the old CFE Treaty and are expecting our partners to ratify an agreement on its adaptation. Russia's moves are designed to compel our partners to think about the future of the treaty," Alexander Grushko, deputy minister for foreign affairs, said in an interview with the daily Vremya Novostei.

Grushko said the old CFE, which was adopted in 1990, doesn't reflect current political realities. For example, it considers NATO members Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania as "Eastern" states and their weapons are included in the Warsaw Pact quotas, RIA Novosti reported.

Only Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine have ratified the newer CFE treaty, Novosti reported.

"All of this creates an illusion of arms control in Europe," Grushko told Vremya Novostei.

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